

**REMARKS BY
ADM. MIKE MULLEN
CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
AT THE**

**FORT CAMPBELL SOLDIER & FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER
GROUNDBREAKING**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

ADMIRAL MICHAEL MULLEN: Good afternoon, Congresswoman Blackburn, other distinguished guests. It really is a great pleasure to be here. Actually, it's been a terrific couple of days for Deborah and myself here at Fort Campbell to come where so many have sacrificed so much – those who wear the uniform and families who support them and to spend the better part of two days with so many – both asking questions and being asked questions.

And one of the highlights – actually, I just left a group of wounded warriors in the warrior transition unit. And to see where this warrior transition unit is compared to warrior transition units that we stood up upwards of a year ago really makes my heart sing. Just sat down with about 20 wounded warriors who are well in transition – they feel – in fact two or three of them said it's the best unit they've ever been associated with, which is high praise not just for them, but for, obviously, the command and the people who are taking care of them.

I think today's event – today's groundbreaking is a signature event in terms of our nation's commitment to those who sacrifice so much – the entire capability of the SFAC, but the broader commitment to men and woman who have been wounded and the support of their families is one that we have spoken to, we've invested in and now today is certainly a critical day in terms of meeting that commitment.

And yet it is just a near-term commitment for what I believe will have to be a commitment to these young heroes for the rest of their lives and certainly to the family members as well. And we should not every forget those families of the fallen who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and that we are committed to them as well for the rest of their lives – their dreams – those of the wounded and those of the fallen haven't changed. And those who sacrifice so much deserve no less than making sure they're well cared for, for as long as they live.

I'm grateful for the incredible friendship, the support of the local community here. I have the great good fortune of traveling all over our country and seeing communities that support our

men and women in uniform and there isn't one that has a better reputation than the community here. And so for all of you who make a difference in our soldiers' lives, in our families' lives – I just want to express my gratitude. And, again, thanks for all your support, thanks to everyone who is here today, and certainly know that from the senior leadership in the military down to the most junior person and our families, we are incredibly appreciative of all that you do to support us. Thank you.

(Applause.)

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